

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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R 140808Z JUL 77
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5756
INFO CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8181

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, ELTN, CH
SUBJECT: CHINA HIGHLIGHTS, NO. 19

1. TENG AND HIS PROGRAM LINKED -- FINAL CLEARING OF REHABILITATION PROCEDURES

WHERE PEKING HAD HERETOFORE ALWAYS SEPARATED THE QUESTION OF THE REHABILITATION OF TENG HSIA PING THE MAN AND THE POLITICAL POLICIES WHICH HE FORMULATED, RECENT PEKING MEDIA HAVE

UNMISTAKABLY LINKED TENG AND HIS POLICIES. IN ADDITION, THE ARTICLES HAVE SANCTIFIED THESE POLICIES AS DERIVED FROM MAO INSTRUCTIONS AND IN CONSONANCE WITH AGREED CENTER POLICY DECISIONS. WITH THE CENTRAL WORK CONFERENCE EARLIER THIS YEAR SETTING DOWN A HUA REGIME TIMETABLE FOR THE CONVOCAION OF THE PARTY PLENUM, PARTY CONGRESS, AND NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS AS WELL AS A REHABILITATION SCHEDULE FOR TENG, THE CURRENT
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ATTENTION TO TENG AND HIS PROGRAMS APPEARS TO BE PART OF A FINALIZING OF THE CLEARANCE PROCESS FOR HIS PREVIOUS ROLES. NEVERTHELESS, WHILE THE STORIES OF TENG'S RETURN REMAIN CURRENT AND THE SIGNS OF HIS INTENDED REHABILITATION HAVE INCREASED, THERE IS STILL NO INDICATION THAT THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP HAS MADE A FINAL DECISION ON THE POSTS HE WILL OCCUPY. THIS ISSUE COULD STILL BE THE SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE

WRANGLING AT THE CENTER.

2. CHINA SUPPORTS NORTH KOREA

THE PRC HAS CALLED FOR THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL U.S. FORCES FROM SOUTH KOREA FOR THE SECOND TIME IN THREE WEEKS. THE LATEST STATEMENT CAME IN A JULY 12 SPEECH BY THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO NORTH KOREA ON THE OCCASION OF THE 16TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHINA-KOREA TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP. COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AND ECHOES THE JUNE 25 "PEOPLE'S DAILY" EDITORIAL.

3. KANSU RAILWAY PROBLEMS

ORDER HAS FINALLY BEEN RESTORED TO STRATEGIC KANSU PROVINCE'S TROUBLED RAIL TRANSPORT SYSTEM. NEVERTHELESS, DOUBT REMAINS WHETHER THE SYSTEM IS ONCE AGAIN RUNNING SMOOTHLY. A LENGTHY JUNE 7 ARTICLE BY THE CCP COMMITTEE OF THE LANCHOW RAILWAY BUREAU DETAILED THE CONTINUING STRUGGLE AGAINST "GANG OF FOUR" SUPPORTERS WITHIN THE BUREAU. THIS REFERENCE AND THE FACT THAT KANSU WAS ONE OF ONLY FOUR PROVINCES WHICH FAILED TO CLAIM PRODUCTION INCREASES FOR APRIL AND MAY SUGGEST THAT PROBLEMS PERSIST. LANCHOW CITY IS STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT FOR ECONOMIC AND DEFENSE REASONS. THE BUREAU'S STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE WAS UNDERLINED BY PEKING'S DISPATCH OF A LEADERSHIP GROUP (REPORTEDLY PLA) IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR TO STRAIGHTEN CONFIDENTIAL

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OUT THE TROUBLED LANCHOW RAILWAY BUREAU. SHOULD SERIOUS DISTURBANCES FLARE UP AGAIN, PEKING CAN BE EXPECTED TO REACT QUICKLY WITH EVEN MORE MUSCLE.
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